

**The Speech of H. E. Hammouda Sabbagh Speaker of Syrian People's Assembly**

**At the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**

**St-Petersburg-Russian Federation**

**14-18 October 2017**

**H.E. Mr. Saber Chowdhury President of IPU**

**H.E. Mrs. Valentina Mavienko Chairperson of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation**

**H.E. Mr. Vyacheslav Volodin Chairperson of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation**

**H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong , Secretary General of IPU**

**Excellences Ladies and gentlemen, the presidents of the parliaments**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

From the country of peace and diversity, I salute you, and on behalf of the Syrians who have formed a model of coexistence, tolerance and openness throughout history, I salute you. We are happy to meet in this city, which today embodies the title of civilization, heroism and resistance .The title of life against the atrocities of killing and destruction.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

There is no doubt that the challenges and dangers that threaten the national state and cultural diversity today are no longer linked to the concept of globalization only. The dangers of extremism, atonement and terrorism that are sweeping countries in our region and in other regions of the world today constitute the greatest challenge to the countries and governments of the world, and the most dangerous threat facing communities of different religions and colors. And what we are exposed to in Syria and Iraq from the Takfiri terrorism funded and supported by some countries is the biggest evidence that we must work together to face the dangers of terrorism, which is based on a blind extremist ideology rejects the other and allow the killing and body distortion.

Therefore, I can say that all the international conventions and treaties that we agree to promote dialogue between peoples and religions and respect for others are today submit

a real test. Today we, as representatives of our peoples, face a difficult test in terms of taking responsibility and playing an active role in the process of cultural, intellectual and political confrontation and we have to work together as parliamentarians to stop arming the terrorists and assassins infidels and to pass the necessary laws and to implement the resolutions of the United Nations, in particular resolutions 2253/2254.

All of you know that the terrorist organizations that practice the worst crimes against our societies, which have lived coherently for centuries, would not have done so without the support, funding, arming and political coverage of some countries and governments in the world. So we must move to stop these countries which are still funding and arming terrorists and infidels killers before it is too late.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

We were in Syria and we still believe that protecting cultural diversity and promoting citizenship and equality in our societies is a priority for us and that this diversity is a source of wealth and strength for our countries. If we have the will to act against this war of genocide, we have to face these obscurantist forces that practice terrorism against anyone who disagrees them intellectually, religiously or ethnically.

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

The cultural heritage in our region has not escaped the brutality of these forces, which deliberately destroyed and destroyed the religious and archaeological shrines and looted and smuggled to empty the region of its human civilization, which proves to the world the harmony of its components and homogenization over centuries.

Our peoples are waiting us to be up to responsibility to face the challenges and dangers that threaten them. Let us work to fight the causes and not the consequences. All we are subjected to from the scourge, destruction, and wars stems from the support of some parties and states of extremist thinkers who reject and disbelieve and others and call them infidels. Let us work to spread the culture of love, tolerance and peace, by word and deed, with culture and information, with politics and practice, to achieve social well-being and a decent life for our peoples and the peoples of the world.

Since the beginning of the war against us, we have found that there are legitimate demands of the people. The constitutional and legislative institutions have changed the constitution in a qualitative manner, which was approved by the people through the

referendum. The new Constitution applies all the criteria of democracy and along with a new electoral law two pluralistic parliamentary elections in 2012-2016 is based on it as well as a pluralistic presidential election in 2014 followed by a number of prominent civil society leaders from many countries, including Western ones.

Here we assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that in Syria and through the steadfastness of the people, the army and the leadership, we have managed, over seven years, in cooperation with friends, brothers and allies, foremost Russia and Iran, to confront the worst terrorist war and defeat the most dangerous organizations that tried to undermine the structure of the state and its institutions. Today we are on the road to defeating terrorism and its ideology, and proclaiming the ultimate victory, which is a victory for the civilized world forces.

And here I can say that the blood of the Syrians who shed in defense of Syria is at the same time defending the countries and peoples of the world. And if this terrorism succeeds, no one will escape from it.

We thank all our brothers, friends and allies and all the countries and forces that stood by us in defending our people and our homeland. We thank the Russian Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union for holding this important meeting and hope that our work will succeed.

Peace be upon you

St. Petersburg / 10/2017

**Speaker of the People's Assembly**

**In the Syrian Arab Republic**

**Hamouda Sabbagh**